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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant : Peter M. Bonutti  
Serial No. :  
Title : APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR TISSUE REMOVAL  
Attorney Docket : BON-1360-7

Cleveland, OH 44114-1400

June 1, 2001

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

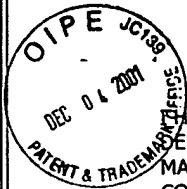
Sir:

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed to fulfill the  
duty of candor and good faith toward the Patent and Trademark  
Office in accordance with 37 CFR §1.56.

Below is a list of information which persons substantively  
involved in the preparation of the above-identified application are  
aware and believe that a reasonable Examiner may consider  
important to deciding whether to allow the application. Although a  
search to locate the best information may have been made, this  
document is not a representation that such a search has been made  
and is not a representation that no other information exists.  
However, this document is not to be construed as being an admission

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PATENT

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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant : Peter M. Bonutti  
Serial No. : 09/872,526  
Filing Date : June 1, 2001  
For : APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR  
TISSUE REMOVAL  
Art Unit : (?)  
Examiner : P. Prebilic (?)  
Attorney Docket : BON-1360-7

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

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**(This Application is a continuation of U.S. Application  
Serial No. 09/483,676)**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:

1. Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98, and in compliance with CFR §1.56, the Office's attention is directed to the patents, pending applications, publications and other information listed on the attached PTO-1449. A copy of each listed document is enclosed. Applicant(s) make no admission that the enclosed documents are prior art to the present invention.
2. Regarding each listed document that is not in the English language, an English-language translation accompanies this Statement as indicated on the attached PTO-1449 or a corresponding U.S. Patent is enclosed or a concise explanation of the relevance of the document is set forth on an attached sheet.

3. Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.97(b) this Statement is being filed (one must be checked):

- (a) ☐ Within three months of the filing date or date of entry into the National Stage.
- (b) ☒ Before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits.
- (c) ☐ After the period set forth in 37 CFR §1.97(b) but before the mailing date of either a final action or a notice of allowance or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.
  - 1) ☐ A certification is given below,
  - 2) ☐ Enclosed is a check covering the fee (\$180.00) set forth in §1.17(p) for consideration of this Statement, or
  - 3) ☐ Charge the fee set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 20-0090.
- (d) ☐ After the mailing date of either a final action or a notice of allowance, but before payment of the issue fee. The required certification and fee is indicated below.
  - 1) ☐ Enclosed is a check covering the fee set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(p) \$180, or
  - 2) ☐ Charge the fee set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

4. Certification (if applicable):

- (a) ☐ The undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement.

- (b) ☐ The undersigned hereby certifies that no item of information contained in this Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the undersigned's knowledge after making reasonable inquiry no item of information contained in the Statement, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement.

5. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, fees underpaid, or credit any overpayment with regard to this Statement to Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

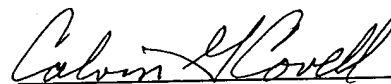
6. Concise Explanation (if needed):

- (1) ☐ Below is a Concise Statement of Relevance of enclosed non-English language document(s).

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

U.S. Patent No. 5,577,517 to Bonutti  
U.S. Patent No. 5,204,106 to Schepers et al.,  
U.S. Patent No. 5,073,373 to O'Leary et al.  
U.S. Patent No. 4,554,686 to Baker  
U.S. Patent No. 5,390,683 to Pisharodi

Respectfully submitted,



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